

BETTER THAN THE PISTOL.

Wrestling the Best Mode of Defense Against an Attack in the Dark.

The Skilled Professional Can Tell by Touch How to Grasp His Opponent.

A Demonstration of the Fact that Wrestlers Can Work Scientifically in the Dark.

"For self-defense against an assailant who makes his attack in the dark, there is nothing to compare with wrestling."

The speaker was a brawny professor of the most exacting of athletic sports.

"But suppose the assailant uses a pistol or a knife?" I suggested.

"The chances are that in the dark, except at very close quarters, he will miss with a revolver. Even against a knife the chances are better for the wrestler than any one else. Let me illustrate: It is not so many years ago since duels with bowie knives, in dark rooms, where occasional pugilists in the west. Sometimes, for variety's sake, I suppose, shotguns or derringers were used. It is difficult to see just where the science was in such encounters. You can hardly imagine a fight between two skilled pugilists under similar conditions. Wrestling is the most scientific of all athletic sports, and the skilled professional can tell, by the mere touch, how to grasp his opponent even if the darkness be Egyptian. You can readily understand what an advantage he would have over an unskilled man, no matter how strong the latter may be."

"If attacked in the dark by a powerful man, how would you defend yourself?"

"If I suspected that he was armed I would seize him in such a way as to pinion both hands until he dropped the weapon. I should try to throw him at once. If unarmed, a simple lock would settle the business; if not, and he happened to be unarmed, I would give him the strangler's hold, which would give him in a twinkling. There would be very little fight left in him after being half choked, you may believe. That is the advantage of wrestling in the dark. It is the highest grade of self-defense. The best evidence of this is that the leading pugilists all learn wrestling nowadays."

I had a novel ocular demonstration of the fact that wrestlers can work scientifically in the dark as in the glare of the footlights yesterday afternoon, says a writer in the Brooklyn Eagle. With the instantaneous camera and magnesium light as umpire and referee, Ernest Roeder, the Greco-Roman champion of New York state, and Jack Carkeek, the champion catch-as-catch-can wrestler, stood stripped to the waist in a darkened parlor on West Twenty-fifth street. Roeder is a Hanoverian, 25 years old, and limbed like a Hercules. He weighs 184 pounds, while Carkeek, who is a native of Michigan, 29 years of age, and somewhat taller than Roeder, weighs 181 pounds. Both men wore dark trunks. Roeder began wrestling at 15 and has successively encountered Sebastian Miller, the strong man of Munich; Sorakichi, the Jap; Strangler Evan Lewis, Greek George and a score of others. Carkeek, who has been fourteen years a professional, has competed in over 100 matches here and in England.

Sufficient light was admitted to permit of posing the camera, after which the room was again obscured in darkness, and the men went to work to illustrate the intricate and dangerous holds, including those that are forbidden by the rules and claimed as foul. At the signal the flash light revealed Roeder fast in the deadly strangler's hold, with Carkeek's right arm over his neck and his left arm under his throat, the knuckles of both hands being pressed relentlessly on Roeder's diaphragm, while the latter vainly strained and struggled to escape from the choking embrace.

A second flash disclosed a variation of the same forbidden hold. Carkeek was on his knees, with Roeder's right arm hugging his neck and his left encircling the Michigan man's throat in a vice-like grip. This hold which Evan Lewis introduced, and which made him feared by all who met him. Most referees declare it foul, but some are latitudinarian enough to allow wrestlers to use almost any tactics they please, although they are distinctively barred by the rules.

"This hold," panted Roeder, as the men paused for breath, "is simply choking a man to death. When I wr stled with Lewis he tried it on me twice; I broke away the first time, but would not wriggle out the second trip. We were wrestling catch-as-catch-can. All the professionals have got the hold now, but they rarely use it."

Again the men set to work in the darkness. A third flash showed Roeder in the throes of the double Nelson lock, which is neck-breaking, crushing in, from which there is no escape, unless the victim's strength is greatly superior to that of his opponent. The double Nelson is used in both Greco-Roman and catch-as-catch-can wrestling. Carkeek stood immediately behind the Hanoverian, with his arms under Roeder's armpits around the back of his neck, and clasped behind the latter's head, which was forced forward on his breast. Roeder's arms were apparently powerless in their terrible hold.

In this hold, which is barred in England and Canada, but allowed here, as no man judges consider it an unfair one, as liable to inflict serious injury, the fingers must not be interlocked. Clapping the fingers is barred as foul at all times, for the reason that such a clasp cannot be parted, and it enables the owner of the stronger wrist to bend back and even break the fingers of his rival. The moment such a clasp is observed it is the duty of the referee to award the match to the other man on the spot.

The next rift in the darkness showed a remarkable sight. Roeder was standing on his head, bracing himself on his hands, both feet straight in the air and describing a curve outward to the floor. Carkeek, on his knees, and Roeder's right arm and shoulder, and with the aid of the reverse heave—a combination movement of arm and hip—to elevate an opponent—and hoisted him on his back. When the camera caught the pair Carkeek was straining to throw Roeder over his head, but in vain, for the Hanoverian had secured a hold on Carkeek's left leg with his right foot that effectually stopped the latter's tactics. A back heave at the hands of a strong wrestler would place his rival prone de combat in a twinkling and might disable him.

"The most effective hold," said Champion Carkeek, "is the neck lock. There are others that are very useful, but every wrestler has to learn. These are the palm lock, body lock and hip lock. These are allowed under the rules. The double Nelson is a very hard lock to acquire. In Greco-Roman wrestling you are not allowed to catch the legs or to clasp hands so as to break fingers. In making the bridge—that is, arching the back and resting on hands, elbows, head and feet, so as to ave a fall—the man on top is allowed to press his forearm against the under man's neck, but he must not press his fingers."

"Would not the forearm pressure choke a man as quick as the knuckles?"

"Yes; but there is nothing to prevent the under man from rolling over. The side roll is one of the ways of escaping from the bridge. If you are down you seize your opponent's wrist and roll over quick. You can roll him under if he isn't scientific. Sebastian Miller is the greatest roller I know."

"American wrestlers are cleverer men

than the English now," Carkeek continued, as he rubbed down his big arms. "The greatest wrestlers to-day are George Steedman, who is champion of Cumberland and Westmoreland style—better known as the back hold style. The latter was over here some fifteen years ago. But the English wrestlers are not in it. When Bibby and Acton came here they could find nobody to equal them at catch-as-catch-can. Now we have Lewis, Greek George, Miller and myself, and we have all beaten them at their own game."

Both men had by this time doffed their trunks and resumed their ordinary street dress. The daylight again streamed into the parlor.

"Now," said my chapman, as we came away, "you have had an illustration of what can be done by skilled wrestlers in a friendly bout in the dark. In an encounter in dead earnest with an assailant they would not be so gentle. I have known a single wrestler to floor five men in as many seconds, simply by using ordinary tactics—and they were tough characters, too. Depend upon it, they would have been in a poorer chance in darkness than in daylight, for while his science never deserts him, they would have fought at random. The man who used up the five ruffians was Matsada Sorak cii, the little Jap."

Poor Humanity!

The common lot is one of sorrow say—at least—the pessimists, they who look at the worst side. Certainly they would otherwise bwe a bright existence, is often shadowed by some ailment that overhangs it like a pall, obscuring perpetually the radiance that else would light the path. Such an ailment, and a very common one, is nervousness, or in other words, weakness of the nervous system, a condition only irremediable where inefficient or improper means are taken to relieve it. The concurrent experience of nervous people who have persistently used Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is, that it conquers entirely super-sensitiveness of the nerves, as well as diseases—so called—which are invited and sustained by their chronic weakness. As the nerves gain stamina from the great tonic the trouble disappears. Use the Bitters for malaria, rheumatism, biliousness and kidney troubles.

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THOMAS & Co., 88 Chambers St., New York. H. M. Farnham & Co., Sole Agents, Helena.

ALIAS SUMMONS—IN THE JUSTICES' court of Helena township, before Junius G. Sanders, Justice of the Peace.

State of Montana, county of Lewis and Clark, ss.

I, C. Collins, plaintiff, vs. Frank L. Thresher defendant, do hereby certify that the above named defendant, greeting:

You are hereby summoned to be and appear before me, Junius G. Sanders, a Justice of the Peace, in and for the county of Lewis and Clark, at my office in Helena, on Thursday, the 23rd day of March, A. D. 1890, at 10 o'clock A. M., to answer to the complaint of H. O. Collins, the above named plaintiff, in a civil action to recover the sum of two hundred dollars and costs of suit in this behalf expended, under my hand and the seal of said court, this 17th day of February, A. D. 1890.

JUNUS G. SANDERS, Justice of the Peace of said Township.

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APPLICATION FOR A PATENT.

U. S. LAND OFFICE. HELENA, MONT., December 20, 1889.

Notice is hereby given that ALBION E. FROST, of J. Shaffner and J. W. Weller, whose possible address is Helena, Lewis and Clark county, state of Montana, have this day filed their application for a patent for 1,500 linear feet of the Don Pedro lode, 50 linear feet of the Evans lode, and 50 linear feet of the Redemption mine, or vein, each bearing gold, silver and other metals, with surface ground, respectively 600, 500 and 600 feet in width, situated in Rock neighborhood, mining district, county of Lewis and Clark, and state of Montana, and designated by the field notes and official plat on file in this office as lots numbered 65, 66 and 68, in township 13 north, range 7 west of principal base line and meridian of Montana territory, and lots No. 65, 66 and 68 being described as follows, to-wit:

The Don Pedro lode, lot 65, beginning at the northeast corner No. 1, from which rock initial point No. 1 bears N. 54 deg. 37 min. E. 1,084.4 feet and running thence S. 11 deg. 13 min. E. 600 feet; thence S. 82 deg. 45 min. W. 1,400 feet; thence N. 11 deg. 13 min. W. 600 feet; thence N. 11 deg. 13 min. W. 1,500 to the place of beginning, containing 2,002 acres.